



*School gardens will need some cash to get started, but the actual amount can vary significantly. Start off small and grow, as resources become available.*

### **California Department of Education**

The Nutrition Education and Training Program has a Garden-Enhanced Nutrition Education Grant Program. These competitive grants range from \$1,000 to \$20,000 per agency based on the number of sites implementing the program. For more information, call Deborah Tamannaie or Jacqui Smith at (916) 322-4792.

The Environmental Education Office has an Environmental Education Grant Program. Different types of grants are available ranging in dollar amount from about \$3,000 to \$15,000. For more information, call Bill Andrews at (916) 657-5374.

The CalServe Program, project-based instruction or service learning, has funds for districts and counties to implement service learning programs. Many of the current service learning projects in schools include a garden project. Contact your local service learning coordinator, or call Mike Brugh at (916) 653-7971, for more information.

Grants from other programs such as Safe Schools and Violence Prevention (916-323-2183), Healthy Start (916-657-3558), or new after-school programs may provide opportunities for garden projects as you address their program goals.

Your school may be able to use Title 1 or Title VII (Academic Excellence Project) funds for a garden program. There are restrictions on the use of these funds, so check with your local administrator for more information.

### **California Integrated Waste Management Board**

Local waste management boards may help fund school garden programs that incorporate composting, vermiculture (worms), recycling, etc. In addition to grant information the Board has a guide on vermicomposting, classroom activities for Grades K-12 entitled *Closing the Loop*, and a compendium of related educational curriculum and materials. Check the white pages under "County Government, Public Works Agency" for a local listing, or contact the state office: California Integrated Waste Management Board at (916) 255-2385 or their website at [www.ciwmb.ca.gov](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov)

### **California Adolescent Nutrition and Fitness Program (CANFit)**

CANFit provides planning and intervention nutrition and fitness grants to organizations serving low-income African-American, Latino, Asian/Pacific Islander and American Indian youth 10-14 years old. It offers training and technical assistance to support grantees. For more information, call (510) 934-9102 or check their website at [www.canfit.org](http://www.canfit.org)

### **Community Groups and Businesses**

Most successful school garden programs have the support of the local community. Your school garden committee can develop a plan for the garden that includes a budget. Then approach local businesses, community/service organizations, and parents with your need. It's best to ask for

specific items (for example, tools, topsoil, fencing, wood), not just general funding for the garden. Remember that donated time and labor is also an important resource for your garden. Local sources for support may include:

- Parent/teacher organizations
- Community businesses such as nurseries and garden centers, lumber/hardware/plumbing, franchises (McDonald's, Home Depot, etc.)
- Garden clubs
- Horticultural commercial organizations such as California Association of Nurserymen
- Local county farm bureau (Look in telephone book under "[County Name] Farm Bureau.")
- Service organizations such as Rotary, Lions, and Kiwanis

Good publicity about your project will make it easier to gain support. People like to support a successful program. Take pictures, invite local officials to special events, contact the local news media, and be an expert on your school's garden project.

A teacher starting a garden project at a middle school raised support in the following way. The students drew up plans for the garden. Then he and a few students went to the local lumber companies to present their project. They requested wood for fence posts and garden beds. The lumber companies responded, and the students got busy building. Next, the students drew pictures of the new garden. The teacher and students went to other businesses. They showed the work they had already done and asked for specific items or money for those items to continue the project. They successfully raised the needed resources, making their community more aware of their school in the process.

Consider involving other groups in the garden (for example, 4-H, summer boys and girls club, Future Farmers of America, and high school shop classes) for help with specific tasks.

Some schools grow enough produce to sell to the school food service department, adults on campus, at a farmers' market, or even to a local restaurant or supermarket! Be creative.

Highlight groups or individuals that have donated to your garden. Some schools place signs or plaques in the garden with the name(s) of their supporters.

### **Other Funding Sources**

Consider other grant sources such as:

- Community development block grants (federal funds to U.S. cities)
- Community foundations
- Public school/local education fund foundations
- Adopt-a-school (adopt-a-farmer) partnerships between schools and businesses

For more information on the above, contact the local United Way office. In addition, manuals that provide basic information on how to start a school garden, such as the National Gardening Association (NGA) *Guide to Kids' Gardening* or Life Lab Science Program's *The Growing Classroom* (see under "resource organizations"), contain more information and ideas for how to successfully raise funds for your project. (NGA itself funds competitive minigrants for garden supplies, and Life Lab Science has information to assist your school in funding a Life Lab program.)

A few specific organizations that may provide support are listed below. *(Some of the information provided was adapted from a list developed by "Gardens for Growing People", Point Reyes Station, California, and by Julia Prescott, California Square Foot Gardening Foundation Representative.)*

**America the Beautiful Funds**

1511 K Street, N.W., Suite 611  
Washington, DC 20005  
(202) 638-1649

National nonprofit association to assist development of community-level programs and projects. Distributes free seeds for community gardens and education programs.

**American Honda Foundation**

P.O. Box 2205  
Torrance, CA 90509-2205  
(310) 781-4090  
Seeks school district projects that involve children in science studies.

**California Association of Nurseryman**

3947 Lennane Drive, Suite 150  
Sacramento, CA 95834  
(916) 928-3900  
Provides horticultural curriculum for Grades K-6.

**Coca-Cola Foundation Grants Program**

P.O. Drawer 1734  
Atlanta, GA 30301  
(404) 676-3240  
Support to education projects, including those that link precollege with higher education and address early childhood education. Open to nonprofit organizations, including schools.

**Common Ground Garden Program**

Agricultural and Environmental Programs  
Burpee/USDA Partnership  
University of California  
2 Coral Circle  
Monterey Park, CA 91755  
(213) 838-4540  
Donates to groups that service the most needy and neglected urban areas.

**Dutch Mill Bulbs, Inc.**

25 Trinidad Avenue  
P.O. Box 407  
Hershey, PA 17033  
(717) 534-2900  
Participants sell flower bulbs and earn 50% of every sale. The bulbs are priced below garden-shop prices. Program includes sales folders, order

sheets, and tip sheets to help kids become super sellers. Note: Bulbs are for fall planting and are shipped only in the fall.

**Environmental Protection Agency-Environmental Education Grants**

Office of Environmental Education Grants  
401 M Street, S.W., Room 368  
Washington, DC 20460  
(202) 260-3335/0255  
Funds projects to design, demonstrate, or disseminate practices, methods, or techniques related to environmental education. Guidelines define environmental education as "a process that leads to responsible individual and group actions."

**The Foundation Center**

1001 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 938  
Washington, DC 20036  
(202) 331-1400  
The foundation's directory lists corporate and private foundations. Call for locations and phone numbers of regional offices.

**Fresno Public Education Foundation Fund**

P.O. Box 1802  
Fresno, CA 93717-1802  
(209) 441-6866  
Offers minigrants to teachers for innovative classroom projects that benefit students and enhance awareness of education.

**General Mills Foundation Grants**

P.O. Box 1113  
Minneapolis, MN 55440  
(612) 540-7891  
Grants support projects that emphasize student achievement, literacy, job training, efficiently using existing resources, early childhood development, and encouraging self-sufficiency among disadvantaged individuals and other areas. Open to tax-exempt organizations, including schools.

**Hitachi Foundation Grants**

Hitachi Foundation  
1509 22nd Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20037

(202) 457-0588

Funds projects that foster understanding of diversity and global issues across disciplines, connect learning objectives with community services, and pursue work-force development. Open to tax-exempt organizations, including schools. Deadlines for preliminary proposals are February 1 and October 1.

#### **Lily Ponds for Youth Grant Program**

Lily Ponds Water Gardens

P.O. Box 10

Buckeystown, MD 21717

(301) 874-5503

Lily Ponds Water Gardens, a retailer, will match dollars for youths to develop, implement, and cultivate an aquatic environment.

#### **Los Angeles Education Partnership**

315 W. 9th Street, Suite 1110

Los Angeles, CA 90015

(213) 622-5237

An independent, nonprofit public education fund working to improve public education for the children of Los Angeles. Since 1984 LAEP has invested more than \$35 million in the efforts of educators and community members to develop, test, and implement new strategies for strengthening classrooms, schools, and communities. Its work ranges from supporting the innovative efforts of individual teachers to the development of comprehensive designs for the schools of the future.

#### **Marcus A. Foster Educational Institute**

1203 Preservation Park Way, Suite 303

Oakland, CA 94612

(510) 835-0391

Provides funding for various educational projects, including school gardens.

#### **Milken Family Foundation**

15250 Ventura Boulevard

Second Floor

Sherman Oaks, CA 91403

Awards grants nationally for preschool through secondary school education. Grants range from \$1,000 to \$25,000.

#### **National Endowment for the Humanities**

Division of Public Programs, Room 426

1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Washington, DC 20506

(202) 606-8267

Government agency that distributes funds for humanities-oriented events and programs.

#### **National Gardening Association**

180 Flynn Avenue

Burlington, VT 05401

(802) 863-1308

School garden grants for all grade levels. "Growing Ideas: A Journal of Garden-Based Learning" monthly magazine.

#### **National Tree Trust**

1120 G Street, N.W., Suite 770

Washington, DC 20005

(800) 846-8733

Serves as a catalyst for local volunteer and community service groups in the growing, planting, and maintaining trees in rural communities, urban areas, and along the nation's highways. Mobilizes volunteer groups, promotes public awareness, provides grants, and unites civic and corporate institutions in support of local tree planting and education projects.

#### **National Science Foundation**

Grants and Agreements

4201 Wilson Boulevard

Arlington, VA 22230

(703) 306-1234

Government agency that distributes funds for science education programs. Competition is national, but many programs have received funding.

#### **National Science Teachers' Award Programs**

1742 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.

Washington, DC 20009

(202) 328-5800

Awards teachers for innovative science projects and exemplary science education programs. Competition is national, but many programs have received funding.

#### **People for Trees**

743 Imperial

P.O. Box 505

San Diego, CA 92112-0505

(619) 234-8733

A nonprofit, community, urban forestry group dedicated to healthy community forests, now and for future generations. Participates in Urban Forestry workshops on tree planting and maintenance and organizing the community. Reviews project applications, performs field evaluations, designs projects, applies for permits, and directs the construction, development, and

conservation of large and small community-based tree planting projects in divergent habitat settings within neighborhoods, along roadways, and in open space throughout San Diego County.

**Rockefeller School Reform Program -  
Rockefeller Foundation**

1133 Avenue of the Americans  
New York, NY 10036  
(212) 864-8500

Funds programs that (1) improve arts and humanities education for at-risk children with emphasis on intercultural understanding; and (2) feature school and family collaboration to prepare children for learning.

**San Francisco Education Fund**

47 Kearny Street, Suite 200  
San Francisco, CA 94108  
(415) 912-2929

Seeks to improve the academic performances in schools by providing leadership and financing for innovation in the classroom. Funded programs encourage teachers and students to take an active part in developing classrooms and schools to be supportive, productive, and effective places for children to learn.

**Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education  
Program**

1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20250-2223  
(202) 720-5203

This program has funded hundreds of projects that help advance knowledge about sustainable agriculture practices and systems nationwide. Funded by the USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service, SARE administers a wide variety of grants that cover the breadth of sustainable agriculture. Sustainable Agriculture publications include "Elements of Sustainable Agriculture Poster." Call (802) 656-0471 to request an order form.

**Toyota TAPESTRY Grants for Teachers**

c/o NSTA

1840 Wilson Boulevard  
Arlington, VA 22207-3000

Up to \$500,000 each year is available to teachers who propose innovative one-year programs with budgets of up to \$10,000 that will enhance science education in their schools.

**William G. Carr Grants**

National Foundation for the Improvement of  
Education

1201 16th Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036-3207  
(202) 822-7840

Supports teaching projects that have strong potential for contributing to some aspect of international cooperation or global peace. Open to members of the National Education Association.